

SPECIFICATION

TITLE

5 "MOLDABLE PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH HOURGLASS PROFILE"

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

MMK
10 This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/543,949 filed April 6, 2000, ^{now abandoned,} the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes and priority is claimed to said application.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to shallow molded plastic containers. More specifically, the present invention relates to a plastic container that is blow molded, injection molded or injection blow molded. Further, the present invention relates to methods for hot-filling and retorting such containers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Shallow plastic molded containers are known. However, molded containers with irregular sidewalls that either bulge outward or inward are not generally known because it is difficult to extract such a container in an axial direction from a mold because of the engagement of the irregular sidewall against portions of the mold that correspond to the top or bottom of the container body.

20 Further, while plastic hot-fill containers and plastic retort containers are known, plastic hot-fill containers and plastic retort containers are configured to be deformable or to include expansion members to accommodate volumetric changes of the contents during the cooling of a hot-fill container or during the heating of a retort container. As a result, rigid containers for hot-fill and
25 retort applications are not generally available.

Still further, consumer demand requires that new product designs and shapes be constantly developed. This consumer demand also applies to containers such as molded plastic containers. Further, manufacturers are constantly trying to distinguish their products from their competition by creating unique and different packaging, including uniquely designed containers. As a result, there
30 is a need for a moldable plastic container with irregular sidewalls that will present an aesthetically appealing and unique configuration in contrast to prior art molded plastic containers. Containers presenting different and new configurations would be useful to distinguish the products sold in such containers from competing products. Finally, there is a need for molded containers having unique designs that are both rigid and suitable for hot-fill and retort processing.

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